

Figs. 156-165. Kitchen Utensils of the Meau.

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- [413] Fig. 156. Wooden fork for making powder. Fig. 157. Wooden
[289] fork for making paper, both about 1/10 nat. size. Figs. 158
[272] and 159. Wooden mallets for pounding dough, about 1/6 nat.
size. Fig. 160. Cutting board for tobacco, 1/5 nat. size.
Figs. 161-164. Knives with iron blade, wooden handle, and
wooden sheath. Fig. 161 = 1/5 nat. size. Fig. 162 = 1/5 nat.
size. Fig. 163 = 1/5 nat. size. Fig. 164 = 1/7 nat. size. Fig. 165.
[289] Bone knife for making paper, 1/4 nat. size.

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Among other materials used for handicrafts bone and ivory must also be mentioned. Knives (see the chapter, "House Furnishings, Household and Kitchen Utensils," Fig. 165) and knife handles, are made out of them, and they are also used in crossbows. The chopsticks of the well-to-do are usually made of ivory.

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Finally, the making of paper is still to be mentioned. Young green bamboo is chopped up, after the outer covering and the pith are removed, into pieces about 15 centimeters long and five centimeters wide. A quantity of wood ashes equal to a fifth of the amount of bamboo /Fig. 373 appears here/ is added and, with the addition of water, is cooked for about twelve hours, during which the water that evaporates is replaced as needed. At the end of this period the bamboo mixture is soft. Then the substance is pounded in order to crush the wood fibers (Ill. 84).¹ At the same time any large or hard particles of wood remaining are carefully removed, and the mass of fibers is further cooked in the same lye solution after liana bark pulverized between stones /411/ has been added. After the substance has reached the proper consistency, it is spread as evenly as possible (Ill. 85)¹ on cotton cloth, which is stretched between wooden frames (Fig. 373), and dried in the sun. With a special bone knife (see the chapter, "House Furnishings, Household and Kitchen Utensils," Fig.

[413]

"House Furnishings, Household and Kitchen Utensils," Fig.

[531]

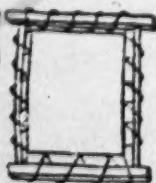


Fig. 373

Wooden Frame for
Paper-making among
the Meau.
1/60 nat. size.

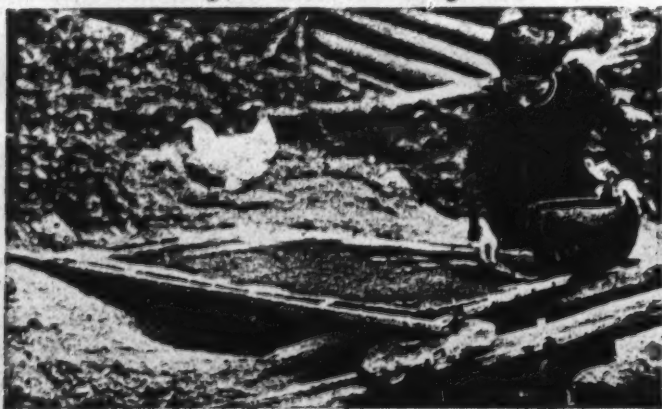
165) the dried and therefore finished paper is carefully lifted off. As was described, it is punched by means of special punches before its use in sacral performances (see the chapter, "Religion and Magic").

¹ [see cat. 116, p598-
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Ill. 84. Making paper for sacral purposes among the Meau.
Pulverizing the bamboo shavings.



Ill. 85. The wood pulp is poured on a cotton cloth and
dried in the sun.

/VII cont./

- 231 Ill. 81. Saddling a pack ox. The Meau breed small, reddish-
492 brown, humped cattle which are good pack animals.
Saddles of wood with thick straw or cotton underlayers are
used.

/VIII/

Ills. 82-90. Handicrafts.

- 325 Ill. 82. A smith in his workshop. With the help of a bellows,
which he is operating with his left hand, he is just about
to melt silver in a stone crucible over a charcoal fire.
In the right foreground, the mold is ready. It consists
of a cotton-covered wooden frame in the shape of the
silver bars desired, and floats in a gourd shell filled with
water. Note the tools, all of which have been made by
the smith himself.

- [415]
322 Ill. 83. Drill for working wood. By inserting iron drills of
412 different sizes, various holes are made. The work of the
hands is aided by the feet.

- 289 Ill. 84. Making paper for sacral purposes. Bamboo shavings are
boiled with wood ashes and then crushed with a wooden
club. Larger pieces of wood are removed.

- Ill. 85. After the addition of a neutralizing agent, the wood
pulp, finally predominantly homogeneous, is poured on
cotton cloth and dried in the sun. The finished sheets
of paper are carefully removed with a bone knife.

- 386 Ill. 86. Batik work on hemp cloth. With a brass pen, which is
531 lying under the wrist, the pattern is applied in wax. The
cloth is then dipped several times in blue dye and dried
in the sun. This is repeated until the desired indigo-blue
color is achieved. Then the wax is boiled off. The
places previously covered with wax now stand out clearly
from the dark-blue background.

- 294 Ill. 87. Girl sewing a new pleated skirt. The Meau girls are
excellent and industrious seamstresses. It is particularly
difficult to work on the harsh hemp fabric.